

North Cascades National Park

Lake Chelan National Recreation Area

Ross Lake National Recreation Area

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



In September

THE NATIONAL PARKS:

AMERICA'S

BEST IDEA

will air nationally on PBS.

This summer, we are proud to share
these five **BEST IDEAS**
to experience your park:

NORTH CASCADES

- 1 Become a Junior Ranger
- 2 Begin a lifetime of fun
- 3 Be Involved: Volunteer
- 4 Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks
- 5 Enjoy the improved facilities



David Snyder

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Summer 2009

BEST IDEA #1

Become a JUNIOR RANGER

North Cascades National Park Complex is proud to launch new Junior Ranger activity booklets this summer thanks to funding from Washington's National Park Fund and the National Park Service Centennial Challenge.

Recognizing that different ages require different activities, the new Junior Ranger program consists of four age-appropriate booklets that allow kids to progress through the program as they grow. Each booklet has also been designed so that each kid has a variety of fun activities to choose from which meet their own learning style.

Each Junior Ranger booklet utilizes a specific theme to guide kids through the activities while deepening their connection with the national park. No activity is repeated, which allows each age to learn something new and special and encourages repeat visits as kids grow older. Additionally, each booklet has a "totem animal" to help guide kids through activities and offer instruction, hints, and ways they can apply their new knowledge in the North Cascades.

Above all else, the new Junior Ranger Program aims to achieve the following two goals: **to have fun** and **to foster a lasting relationship between children and the North Cascades.**

FUTURE STEWARDS

In 2008, North Cascades park staff welcomed over 500 new Junior Rangers. We can't wait to meet the class of 2009!

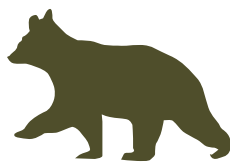
AGES THEME



**PACIFIC
TREEFROG**

3 - 5

*Exploration
of the
Natural World*



BLACK BEAR

5 - 8

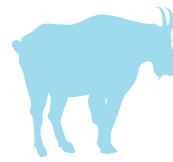
Biodiversity



RAVEN

8 - 11

*Cultural
Awareness*



**MOUNTAIN
GOAT**

12+

*Public Land
Stewardship*



SNEAK PEEK

These are just a few of the 84 pages created for the new North Cascades Junior Ranger Program. Starting this summer, you can pick up a free copy at any of our six visitor and information centers. To download an electronic version, please visit our website: www.nps.gov/noca/forkids (coming soon)

Questions?

Please contact:

Paula Ogden-Muse
Skagit District Interpreter
Paula_Ogden@nps.gov

Marieke Slovin
Lead Interpretive Ranger
Marieke_Slovin@nps.gov



Begin a LIFETIME OF FUN

No matter one's age or skill, there is always a fun activity. We have developed a **Pathway for Youth** (following pages) to serve as a road map through the many programs available to youth. Our hope is that after a 3-day session at Mountain School or becoming a Junior Ranger, for example, a youth can look ahead and ask, "What's next?!" There are many answers and North Cascades National Park Complex is committed to helping youth travel this path. Take a look at the following pages to find what is available to you and your family.

More than providing trail information or leading hikes on local natural history, the Pathway for Youth and the family activities described below are examples of ways that North Cascades National Park Complex creates opportunities for families to experience the park in fun and meaningful ways during each visit.

A number of new programs are being introduced this year, many of which embrace new technologies and media. We are excited to offer so many different ways to connect you and your family with your park.

Junior Ranger Program *Please see opposite page.*

Cascades for Kids *Funded by Washington's National Park Fund, a new activity area is being developed at the North Cascades Visitor Center near Newhalem.*

WebRangers *Earn your WebRanger patch with 50+ online activities about the national parks. www.nps.gov/webrangers*

"Journey Home" *An on-line science adventure through the fascinating North Cascades, rich in human history, and home to wild creatures and extraordinary plants. www.nps.gov/archive/noca/journey/home.htm*

Expanded Family Getaways *This summer, North Cascades Institute opens the doors of the Environmental Learning Center to families of all sizes and experiences for weekends of outdoor explorations. www.ncascades.org/programs/families*

Free Day Trips *Four days this summer, North Cascades Institute will offer free outdoor programs. Choose from a forest/waterfall hike or a canoe trip on Diablo Lake. (June 6, July 19, Aug 2, Sept 27) www.ncascades.org/get_outside/day_trips*

Skagit Watershed Letterbox *Thirteen distinctive "Letterboxes" have been hidden all up and down the beautiful Skagit Watershed – from North Cascades National Park to the ocean. Each box contains educational material to help you learn while you explore. scea.homestead.com/ltrbox.html*

Digital Storytelling Contest *In anticipation of the upcoming Ken Burns documentary, the local PBS station KCTS is equipping and training youth how to create movies at North Cascades, Mount Rainier, and Olympic National Parks. Upload your video and view others at www.kcts9.org/kids (coming soon)*



David Snyder

NORTH CASCADES 2009

North Cascades National Park Complex and our partners conduct many programs to engage youth in the park through education, recreation, and employment. Collectively, these programs provide a wealth of opportunities for youth to build lasting relationships with the park, and vice-versa – a wealth of opportunities for the park to build lasting relationships with youth.

Further, these youth programs can serve as a conduit for recruiting talented youth from underrepresented groups to conservation careers. These programs reach youth early in their process of forming career decisions, particularly those that may not otherwise consider working for the National Park Service.



START HERE *This illustrates a potential pathway for kids to travel through the North Cascades as they grow older. Such a pathway, for example, could take a fifth grade student who participated in Mountain School through numerous other park programs in high school and college.*

MOUNTAIN SCHOOL: ECOSYSTEM EXPLORATIONS

AGES 9-13 YEARS: Hands-on educational activities at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center with a strong focus on science and natural and cultural history that introduce students to mountain ecosystems and provide a close look at diverse ecological communities in the North Cascades.

CONTACT Jeff Giesen

MOUNTAIN SCHOOL: FIELD SCIENCE & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

AGES 14-18 YEARS: Students gain firsthand experience with scientific equipment and field study techniques at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center while learning how National Park Service researchers design field research projects and make land management decisions in our national parks.

CONTACT Jeff Giesen

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

AGES 16-18 YEARS: Provides summer employment opportunities in general maintenance activities (campgrounds, grounds, trails, buildings, etc.) in the park for local high school students.

CONTACT Vicki Johnson

CONTACTS

Michael Brondi

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Gerry Cook

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Vicki Johnson

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All photos by David Snyder

NORTH CASCADES WILD

AGES 14-18 YEARS: Underserved youth learn stewardship, leadership, and community building skills while canoeing Ross Lake and backpacking park trails and participating in the restoration of park trails and campsites.

CONTACT *Jeff Giesen*

SCA HIGH SCHOOL WORK CREWS

AGES 14-18 YEARS: Youth from across the United States spend four weeks in the backcountry working on trail and restoration projects in the park.

CONTACT *Gerry Cook*

SCA INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL WORK CREW

AGES 14-18 YEARS: Youth from Canada and the United States spend five weeks working on trail and restoration projects on the Canada – United States border for North Cascades National Park and Skagit Valley Provincial Park.

CONTACT *Gerry Cook*

SCA CONSERVATION INTERNSHIPS

AGES 18 YEARS & UP: Internships throughout the park in maintenance, law enforcement, administration, resource management, interpretation, and education. Internships typically last 12 weeks (June through August). Housing and a small stipend is provided.

CONTACT *Michael Brondi*

STUDENT TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

AGES 16 YEARS & UP: Students enrolled in a program leading to a degree, certificate, or diploma are eligible for non-competitive appointment to jobs throughout the park. Must be 16 years old, a U.S. citizen, pass a background investigation, and meet minimum job requirements.

CONTACT *Merry Byrum*

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

AGES 18 YEARS & UP: Seasonal jobs throughout the park in maintenance, law enforcement, administration, resource management, interpretation, and education. Must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, pass a background investigation, and meet minimum job requirements. The competitive application process typically begins in the winter. Vacancies can be viewed and applications can be submitted online at www.usajobs.gov.

CONTACT *Merry Byrum*

PARKS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY, SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

AGES 21-35 YEARS: Provides students with over 700 hours (30 quarter credits) of law enforcement classroom and field training. Graduates can qualify for seasonal law enforcement ranger positions. Program runs early January through early April each year. Requirements include: 21 years of age by the time the program is completed; pass a background investigation and physical examination.

CONTACT *Bill Overby*

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP AND NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION

AGES 21 YEARS & UP: North Cascades Institute offers a unique professional residency program designed to prepare students in all aspects of environmental education. Course work explores environmental education while placing an emphasis on field science, cultural studies, teaching and nonprofit administration. This professional residency is fully integrated into a degree program at Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University. A master of education in environmental education with a certificate in leadership and nonprofit administration is earned upon completion of the integrated course work. The seven-quarter program begins each June with summer field studies in the North Cascades.

CONTACT *Tanya Anderson*



LIFELONG ENGAGEMENT

Ask any park ranger how they started working for the National Park Service and in many cases, he or she will recall fondly a pivotal experience as a child while visiting a national park. In our programs, we are not only inspiring the leaders of tomorrow, but also citizens who care deeply for their national parks.



ONLY 144 SWITCHBACKS TO GO...

Did you know that's how many switchbacks are on the trail to McGregor Mountain from the Stehekin Valley? The North Cascades is home to some pretty gnarly terrain but those jagged-peaks and remote valleys are what make this place special and worth protecting. With such a unique landscape comes unique volunteer opportunities you won't find anywhere else. Flip through the following pages for inspiration or let us know if you have an idea for a project!

BEST IDEA #3

Be involved: VOLUNTEER

*Volunteers are integral to park operations and North Cascades National Park Complex has **numerous opportunities for you to help us** achieve our mission – to preserve and protect the park unimpaired for this and future generations.*

Imagine heading to the mountains and leaving your busy life behind some Saturday morning in the near future. As you drive along Highway 20, traffic dies down and the snow-capped peaks of the North Cascades appear.

You follow the directions to a small greenhouse and step out to meet Mike, the volunteer coordinator, and other new faces. It's still early, but you're coffee has kicked in by now. You'll be digging up and preparing to transport native plants grown from seeds by volunteers earlier in the year. Later, they'll be ferried north up Ross Lake where a summer crew of high school students will plant them along the shore to restore the area to its native wetland habitat. As sweat drips down your dirt-covered arms, your mind begins to grasp the journey these plants will take and how many hands will have carried them to their final destination. Later, after saying goodbye to your new friends, you drive back to the city and imagine these plants heading in the opposite direction, getting ready to put their roots down in their new environment. Since the plants will grow within the boundaries of a protected area, buffered by pristine wilderness, you know your efforts will have a lasting effect. Whether you realize it or not, this connection to your park is what makes you a steward.

But maybe getting dirty is not really your thing. Maybe you're a genius at computers or are an experienced educator. All skills are needed. It is not just the extra hours that make volunteers so important; those with a personal relationship with the North Cascades return home as lifelong advocates for the continued preservation of this national treasure.

This is why North Cascades National Park Complex is committed to supporting and encouraging volunteer opportunities. Thank you to those who have helped us care for this special place!

READ ON TO FIND YOUR NEXT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY...

EVERY HOUR COUNTS

*In the last five years, North Cascades National Park Complex hosted **1851 volunteers**. Together, they contributed **150,233 hours** of invaluable work.*

*That's **18,779 workdays** or the equivalent of **72 YEARS OF SERVICE!***





David Snyder

PUBLIC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Blue circles indicate volunteer opportunities that are open to the public. Find one that fits your schedule and read the project description to the right.

APRIL						
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OCTOBER						
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PLEASE JOIN US

Listed below are examples of projects, scheduled for 2009, that we need your time, thought and energy to complete. In addition to those listed there are many more opportunities to volunteer in North Cascades National Park. Choose to help in an office, a campground or in the wilderness! Please contact us if one of the opportunities below seems just right for you or if you have questions about other potential opportunities. Many of our volunteer projects will have group size limits. To insure your place and help park staff plan, please sign up in advance for the projects of your choice. **All projects in blue are open to the public.**

To inquire about the North Cascades National Park's volunteer program or sign up for a project, **please contact:**

Michael Brondi, Volunteer Coordinator
Michael_Brondi@nps.gov
 360-854-7275,

NORTH CASCADES WEST SIDE PROJECTS

Highway 20 Litter Pickup Mosey along Highway 20 before the summer crowds begin whizzing by. Enjoy the camaraderie, tranquility, scenery and wildlife as you retrieve trash discarded by careless humans. *(April 21)*

Newhalem Creek Campground Spring Cleaning Celebrate Earth Day by helping prepare the Newhalem Creek Campground and nearby trails for the busy season ahead. Work may include landscaping with native plants and maintenance and improvement of campsites and trails. Please bring a potluck item to share at lunch. *(Earth Day April 22, 9am - 3pm)*

Hands to Work: Learning Center Stewardship Weekend North Cascades National Park staff, North Cascades Institute staff and volunteers will work at a variety of projects benefiting the Environmental Learning Center and North Cascades National Park. A \$40 fee covers the cost of food and lodging. *(May 1 - 3)*

Retired Chief Petty Officers of Oak Harbor This group will camp at Upper Goodell Creek Campground and assist with a variety of campground maintenance tasks in the Newhalem area. *(May 1 -3)*

National Parks Conservation Association National Trails Day. National Parks Conservation Association members will camp in Newhalem and work on local trails and other facilities. *(June 6)*

North Cascades Conservation Council Project TBD at the Diablo Lake Overlook. *(July 11)*

Diablo Lake Overlook Plant Restoration Volunteers will help restore a native plant community at the Diablo Lake Overlook on

Highway 20. Volunteers and park staff will remove non-native invasive plants in the morning and collect seed from native plants in the area in the afternoon. Volunteers will plant some of the seed immediately and some will be propagated in the park nursery for future use. *(July 11 9am - 3pm)*

Pacific Northwest Trail Association Mid-August, date and location of trail project to be determined. *(Mid-August)*

Colonial Creek Campground Morning Restoration This volunteer opportunity will occur on three Saturdays during the peak camping season at Colonial Creek Campground. Families or individuals at Colonial Creek will be invited to meet with a park representative at 9am on Saturday morning. Volunteers will receive a brief introduction to the park and description of the project. Visitors will then learn about native plants while pulling non-native plants and gathering the seeds of native plants for replanting. A short naturalist walk will end the morning. *(July 18, Aug 1, Aug 22)*

Ross Lake Rendezvous Partner groups are invited to send representatives and members for part or all of this event. Volunteers will camp on Ross Lake and take part in several days of riparian restoration at and near Dry Creek. Park staff will provide transportation on the lake and project supervision. Potential participants include park personnel, North Cascades Institute, Seattle City Light, The Wilderness Society, Student Conservation Association, Outward Bound, Boy Scouts of America, EarthCorps, North Cascades Conservation Council, National Parks Conservation Association and Washington Trails Association. *(Sept 17 - 20)*

Cascade Pass Vegetation Restoration Volunteers will hike to one of the most beautiful locations in the park to help restore native vegetation. This wilderness site is accessed by a moderately strenuous and remarkably scenic hike. Meet at the Cascade Pass parking lot at 9am, carry plants and tools to the pass and plant until 3pm. *(Oct 3)*

Washington Trails Association A Washington Trails Association team will spend three days improving a trail on the west side of the park. Details and dates will be determined by park trails staff and Washington Trails Association representatives. *(Date TBD)*

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



YOUTH GROUP STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Boy Scouts (Dates TBD)

Eagle Scout Projects 1 in planning stage, work will be near the North Cascades Visitor Center in Newhalem. (Dates TBD)

50 Miler Canoe Trips Minimum of 4 in 2009. Park staff will provide information regarding service work on Ross Lake to Boy Scout groups, meet with them on Ross Lake to introduce the park, and demonstrate/lead in service work. (Dates TBD)

50-Mile Hike Minimum of 2 in 2009. Park staff will provide information regarding service work (primarily brushing) needed on the trails Boy Scout groups hike. A park staff member will arrange to meet the group at a trailhead or in the backcountry, to provide tools (loppers) and instruction regarding the work. Arrangements will be made for the group to return the loppers post trip. (Dates TBD)

Outward Bound Minimum of 6 groups. Park staff will meet with youth groups on Ross Lake to provide information about service work, then meet with youth groups on Ross Lake to introduce them to the park and demonstrate/lead in service work. (Dates TBD)

Passages Northwest Youth organization dedicated to educating and motivating girls to develop leadership and courage through the integrated exploration of the arts and the natural environment. The program will provide service work on Ross Lake and near Newhalem. (July 23, August 3)

North Cascades Wild Unique partnership program with North Cascades Institute, Student Conservation Association, and diverse youth. Park staff provide logistical support and service work for six groups of 9 youths from diverse backgrounds. Work will occur on Ross Lake and adjacent trails. Each trip includes three or may days of service work on Ross Lake and adjacent trails to remove non-native plants, improve camps and trails, and survey fish populations. (June 29 - July 10, July 20 - 31, Aug 9 - 12)

STEHEKIN is a community in a remote valley at the north end of Lake Chelan in North Cascades National Park Complex. This part of the park can only be accessed by float plane, boat, or trail and has very limited accommodations for visitors.

Because of these logistical challenges we are eager to utilize the help of organized groups who would like to visit the area and add a service work component to their trip. In many cases the park can provide reimbursement for boat transportation and provide bicycles for local transportation and recreation.

If your group would like to help the park in the Stehekin area please examine the potential projects listed here. If one of these projects matches the skills and interest of your group, or if you have another idea about how you can help the National Park Service staff in Stehekin, **please contact:**

Vicki Gempko, Stehekin Volunteer Coordinator
360-854-7365
Vicki_Gempko@nps.gov

NORTH CASCADES STEHEKIN AREA PROJECTS*

Campground Clean-up and

Maintenance Help park staff improve campgrounds by leveling tables, renovating tent pads, and installing new fire grates.

Native Plant Restoration Work Help park staff collect native seed and remove weeds in the historic Buckner Orchard.

Park Building Vegetation Clearing

Help park staff protect structures by clearing vegetation around building foundations to reduce the fuel load and keep pests away.

High Bridge Camp Shelter Roof Repair

Help protect the historic shelter at High Bridge Camp. Volunteers will work with skilled maintenance employees to replace damaged roof frame materials and cedar shingles and shakes.

Bridge Creek Cabin Stove Pipe

Replacement Volunteers will work with skilled maintenance employees to replace the stovepipe on this historic ranger cabin. Volunteers must be able to hike the 3 miles from the trailhead to the Bridge Creek Cabin.

Buckner Orchard Tractor Shed

Replacement Help replace an important Buckner Orchard structure that collapsed under winter snow. Work includes demolition of the building remains, salvage of reusable materials and preparation for construction of the new shed.

Buckner Orchard Maintenance Volunteers will help with a wide variety of orchard work that may include non-native plant removal, apple thinning, cleanup and more. (Sept 18 - 23)

American Hiking Society Early July a group will brush the Company Creek and Devore Creek trails. (Date TBD)

Washington Trails Association This is their first volunteer project in the park in over five years and the group is itching to get back to the rugged mountain landscape as they tend to a trail and backcountry camp damaged by flood. (July 11 - 18)

***All Stehekin public volunteer opportunity dates are to be determined. Please contact Vicki Gempko for the latest information.**

BEST IDEA #4

Do Your Part! for CLIMATE FRIENDLY PARKS

With over 300 glaciers representing 1/3 of those remaining in the lower 48 states, the ecosystem and landscapes of North Cascades National Park Complex will experience unprecedented change. Recognizing the drastic consequences of climate change, park staff is committed to reducing the park's contribution to greenhouse gasses, supporting climate science, research and adaptive management, and leading public awareness and education.

In February, Washington's three largest national parks—Mount Rainier, Olympic, and North Cascades—each held “**Climate Friendly Parks**” workshops with their staff and park partners. Over the course of two days, each developed action plans and adopted the new “**Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks**” initiative to help visitors reduce their carbon footprint.

CASE STUDY:

Through a grant from the National Park Foundation funded by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the North Cascades Institute in partnership with North Cascades National Park Complex will host this July a group of 20 diverse, urban high school students to pilot the **Parks Climate Challenge**. The youth were selected from 5 major cities across the country and demonstrate potential to be dynamic leaders within their community. During the program, they will work with scientists in the field, study the effects of climate change on park resources, and develop ideas on how to engage with other youth on this topic. Their experience culminates with a visit to Washington D.C where they will interact with policy makers before returning home to implement their own service project with their local communities.

“Parks Climate Challenge” represents an innovative hands-on learning experience for the future environmental leaders of tomorrow. Please visit: www.ncascades.org/programs/youth/climate_challenge

LEARN MORE:

Climate Friendly Parks

www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks

Do Your Part! for Climate Friendly Parks

www.DoYourPartParks.org

The EPA Climate Change Kids Site

www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids

U.S. Forest Service Climate Change Resource Center

www.fs.fed.us/ccrc

REQUIRED VIEWING

Check out these videos that have been produced this past year regarding the impacts of climate change in the North Cascades.



“CASCADING EFFECTS”

*produced by Jim Tharp and Montana State University
www.lifeonterra.com/episode.php?id=178*

www.lifeonterra.com/episode.php?id=179



“SHRINKING GLACIERS”

*produced by KCTS9
www.kcts9.org/video/shrinking-glaciers*

Enjoy the IMPROVED FACILITIES

STAFF PICKS

*The upper Stehekin Valley
is a great place for:*

Day hikes

Fishing

*Easy overnight
backpacking trips
(a good first trip for kids!)*

Spring wildflowers

Fall colors

*Use **Bridge Creek Camp**
as a base camp. It is
centrally located for
many of the park's best
day hikes into the high
country.*

*Looking for solitude? The
camps between **Bridge
Creek Camp** and
Cottonwood Camp
have lower visitation and
greater opportunities for
wilderness experiences.*

*If you've missed **Dolly
Camp** and **Shady Camp**
since the floods, they are
being rebuilt this summer!*

North Cascades National Park Complex works on numerous facilities improvement projects each year, but 2009 is especially remarkable for the number of projects underway to improve your recreational experience. Some projects include meeting federal accessibility standards like open-captioning for visitor center films and accessible restrooms in park campgrounds. Others, like the new "vintage" shuttle busses in Stehekin, are designed to add to the fun of visiting your park.

Here is just a sample of the range of projects underway this summer:

- Happy Creek Boardwalk replacement
- New "vintage" shuttle busses in Stehekin
- Paint historic buildings
- Provide Open-captioning and audio description in the North Cascades Visitor Center
- New Diablo Lake Overlook educational shelter
- New McKellar Cabin interpretive trail replacement educational panels
- Desolation Peak Lookout restoration
- New trail and viewing platform above Rainbow Falls
- New exhibits for the Golden West Visitor Center
- Add braille captions to visitor center exhibits
- Refurbish park entrance signs
- Repair wastewater treatment plant



David Snyder

HAPPY TRAILS

The network of trails at North Cascades National Park Complex requires a lot of love and attention. Each year, crews maintain and repair over 394 miles of trail and 132 backcountry campsites.



A FILM BY KEN BURNS
THE NATIONAL PARKS
America's Best Idea

"I think that when people go to a national park, they're provided a compass to history. And so the parks become a mirror of who we are, of our own identity, not just as American, our identity as human beings, as a species, as how we fit in to everything else around us."
-Shelton Johnson, Park Ranger

FROM PBS.ORG: Filmed over the course of more than six years at some of nature's most spectacular locales – from Acadia to Yosemite, Yellowstone to the Grand Canyon, the Everglades of Florida to the Gates of the Arctic in Alaska – THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA'S BEST IDEA is nonetheless **a story of people**: people from every conceivable background – rich and poor; famous and unknown; soldiers and scientists; natives and newcomers; idealists, artists and entrepreneurs; people who were willing to devote themselves to saving some precious portion of the land they loved, and in doing so reminded their fellow citizens of the full meaning of democracy. It is a story full of struggle and conflict, high ideals and crass opportunism, stirring adventure and enduring inspiration – set against the most breathtaking backdrops imaginable.

THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA'S BEST IDEA is a six-episode series directed by Ken Burns and written and co-produced by Dayton Duncan. Airing nationally beginning Sunday, September 27th. For more information, please visit:

www.pbs.org/nationalparks

Top photo: Craig Mellish
Bottom: QT Luong/terrageria.com